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HOUSE PLANNING AIDS

August 1965 Miscellaneous Publication No. 1002

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

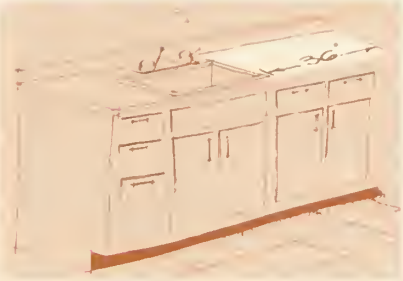
WORKROOMS

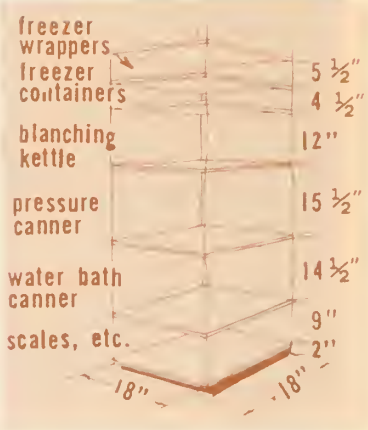
A separate, carefully planned workroom on the first floor, on a porch, or in the basement is convenient for work that involves clutter—such as canning and freezing food, sewing, laundering.[1]

A workroom is also convenient for storing preserved food, chore clothes, and cleaning supplies and equipment.[2]

WORK AREA FOR PRESERVING FOOD

A counter 36 inches wide beside the sink provides sufficient space for preparing fruits and vegetables and for washing the containers. The top of a chest freezer or washer, if protected by a covering, might also be used.

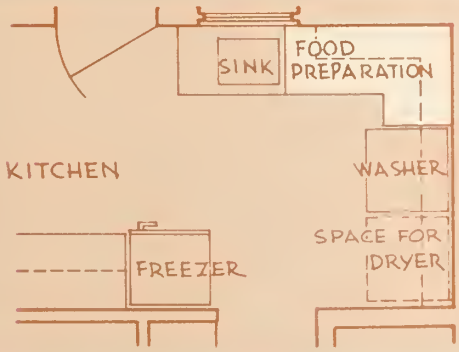


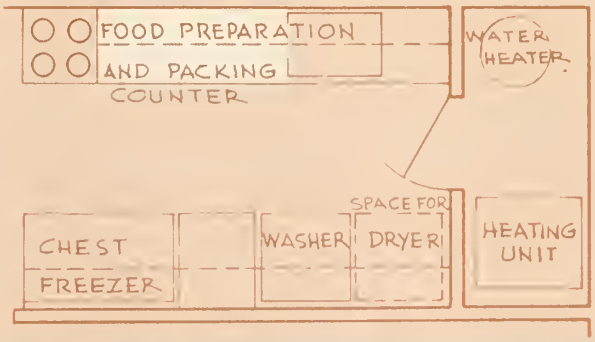


Another counter 36 inches wide beside a cooking unit gives adequate space for packing food.

These dimensions are suggested for shelves used to store freezing and canning supplies and equipment.

A single counter 60 inches wide between the sink and range or portable cooking appliance provides space enough for all the work involved—washing the containers and preparing and packing the food.





[1] *See House Planning Aid, "Laundry Areas," USDA Misc. Pub. 961, 1964.*
[2] *See House Planning Aid, "Storage for Cleaning Equipment," USDA Misc. Pub. 996, 1965.*

STORAGE FOR PRESERVED FOOD

CANNED FOOD . . . needs to be stored in a dark, dry place—preferably where the temperature is between 50° and 60°.

The number of jars to be stored determines the length and depth of shelving needed. Use 1-inch-thick shelving or ⅝-inch-thick plywood. For spans greater than 3 feet, add center supports.

Use the formulas below to find length and depth of shelving needed for each type of container. Arrange shelves to suit your needs and space—from floor to ceiling or above counters and appliances. The highest shelf should be no more than 72 inches from the floor. Adjustable shelves are most convenient.

FOR QUART OR PINT JARS (4-in. diameter)

$$\text{Length of shelving (inches) for jars} = \frac{\text{No. of jars}}{\text{No. of rows per shelf}} \times 4 \text{ in.}$$

FOR JELLY GLASSES (3-in. diameter)

$$\text{Length of shelving (inches) for glasses} = \frac{\text{No. of glasses}}{\text{No. of rows per shelf}} \times 3 \text{ in.}$$

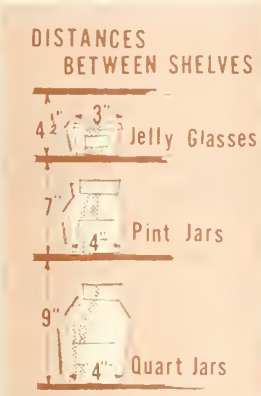
EXAMPLE

$$\text{Length of shelving (inches) for 200 qts.} = \frac{200 \text{ jars}}{2 \text{ rows per shelf}} \times 4 \text{ in.}$$

Length = 400 in. (or 33 ft. 4 in.)

MINIMUM SHELVING DEPTHS FOR JAR STORAGE

ITEM	1 ROW	ADD FOR EACH ADDITIONAL ROW
Pint Jars	4½ in.	4 in.
Quart Jars	4½ in.	4 in.
Jelly Glasses	3½ in.	3 in.

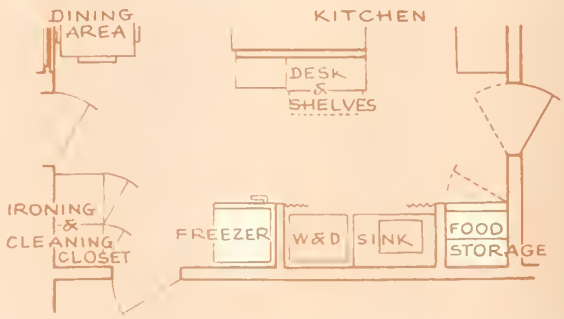


This pantry stores canned food and freezing, canning, and extra household supplies. Nine 5-inch-deep shelves on the door are tilted up ½ inch at the front, eliminating the need for a protective rail. A caster supports the weight of the loaded door.

FROZEN FOOD . . .

The workroom is a good location for an upright or a chest freezer. Allow enough space to open the lid completely between the top of a chest freezer and the bottom of wall cabinets or shelves.

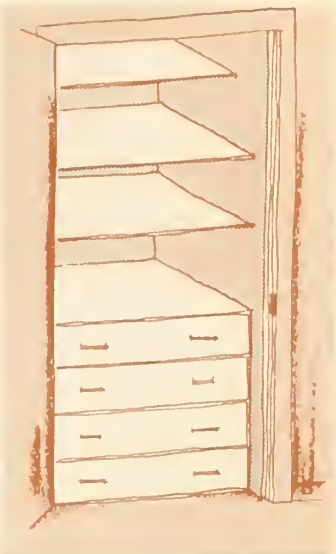
Provide a cart or at least 18 inches of counter space adjacent to the freezer, for convenience when loading or removing packages.



WORK AREA FOR SEWING

The workroom is also a good location for sewing if space, lighting, and storage are adequate and if the workroom is not also a hallway. Quick mending jobs can be done conveniently near the laundry. Also, the clutter that is inevitable with prolonged sewing projects can be kept away from other areas of the house.

Storage for sewing supplies and equipment need not be elaborate to be convenient. The back of a door equipped with hooks, shelves, and bins provides convenient, inexpensive storage for sewing supplies.



Some sewing supplies can be stored in divided drawers. These can be in a chest or built beneath a counter.

A closet might be fitted with drawers and shelves. Additional storage for small items could be provided on the inside of the door.

Store a portable sewing machine so it can be easily set up for use. In this arrangement, the machine slides onto a low, multi-purpose counter top.

Allow at least 3 feet of space for a chair in front of a sewing machine.

Either a portable folding surface or a large table top 36 by 72 inches is needed for cutting.

STORAGE FOR CHORE CLOTHES

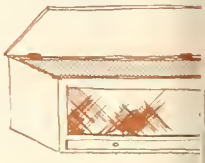
CLOSET DIMENSIONS	
HEIGHTS (from floor)	Inches
Overall	84
Hooks (12" apart)	
Adult clothing	60
Children's clothing	45
Overolls	72
First shelf	64
Top shelf	73
Boot rack	4

CLOSET DIMENSIONS	
DEPTHS	Inches
Minimum	16
Recommended	20 to 24
WIDTHS	Feet
Minimum for 16 in. depth	5
Minimum for 20-24 in. depth	4
(Add 8 in. if tier of shelves is to be included at end)	

A workroom near the back door is a good place to hang chore clothes and children's wraps.

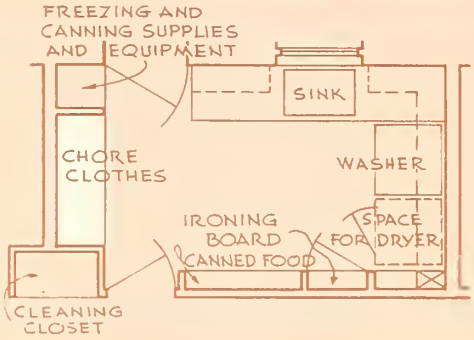
Make the slatted boot rack removable for cleaning. The floor of the closet should be moisture-resistant.

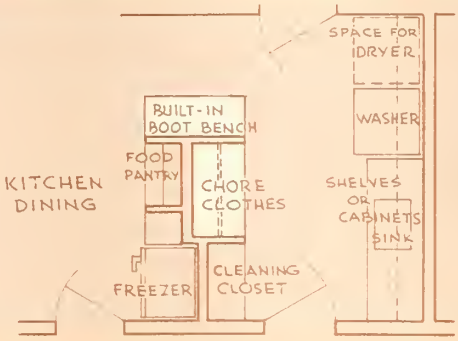
A chore-clothes closet should be well ventilated. Louvered doors or doors with openings at the top and bottom allow air to circulate.



Shelves 8 inches deep and 8 inches apart across one end of the closet, within easy reach of children, are convenient for their caps, mittens, and scarves.

A built-in, well-ventilated boot storage bench keeps boots out of sight and provides a place to sit. Place boots on a rack over a removable metal liner.





REMEMBER AS YOU PLAN

- For comfortable year-round use, insulate the workroom against weather extremes.
- Provide windows for daylight and ventilation. Also use a ventilating fan to help remove moisture and odors.
- Consider installing a floor drain in workrooms with washers. Cover floor and counter surfaces with waterproof, easy-to-clean materials.
- Know the dimensions of equipment and appliances you will install, since freezers, water heaters, and heating units vary greatly in size.
- If the heating unit and water heater are in the workroom, consider screening them from view. Louvered or perforated hardboard bifold doors or portable screens allow air to circulate, yet permit servicing of equipment.
- Provide special-purpose outlets for freezer, washer, and dryer—also adequate wiring and outlets 42 inches from the floor for an iron, cooking utensils, and sewing machine, and an outlet 60 inches from the floor for a clock.

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